Appln. No.: 10/696,659
Response submitted April 8, 2005
Replying to Office Action dated March 24, 2005

PATENT
Customer No. 22,852
Attorney Docket No. 07451.0001-23000
Intertrust Ref. No. IT-5.1.2.1 (US)

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

91.    (Previously presented) A method for auditing access to, or other use of, a digital object at a first computer system, the method comprising:

obtaining a request to access or otherwise use the digital object;

granting the request to access or otherwise use the digital object in accordance with one or more rules associated with the digital object;

storing audit information relating to the access or other use of the digital object; and

determining that at least a predefined amount of audit information has been stored, and sending at least part of the stored audit information to another computer system remote from the first computer system.

92.    (Previously presented) The method of claim 91, in which at least one of the one or more rules includes an indication of a number of times that the digital object is allowed to be accessed or otherwise used.

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93.    (Previously presented)  The method of claim 92, further comprising:

in response to obtaining the request to access or otherwise use the digital object,

determining whether the request could be granted without exceeding the number of

times that the digital object is allowed to be accessed or otherwise used.

94.    (Previously presented)  The method of claim 93, in which determining

whether the request could be granted without exceeding the number of times that the

digital object is allowed to be accessed or otherwise used includes:

accessing previously stored audit information, the previously stored audit

information containing an indication of a number of times the digital object has been

accessed or otherwise used.

95.    (Previously presented)  The method of claim 91, in which storing audit

information relating to the access or other use of the digital object comprises creating an

audit record containing information relating to the access or other use of the digital

object, and storing the audit record in a database containing one or more other audit

records, the one or more other audit records containing information relating to one or

more other accesses or other uses of the digital object.

96.    (Previously presented)  The method of claim 91, in which storing audit information relating to the access or other use of the digital object comprises creating an audit record containing information relating to the access or other use of the digital object, and storing the audit record in a database containing one or more other audit records, the one or more other audit records containing information relating to one or more other accesses or other uses of the digital object or one or more other digital objects.

97.    (Previously presented)  The method of claim 91, in which storing audit information relating to the access or other use of the digital object comprises creating an audit record containing information relating to the access or other use of the digital object, and storing the audit record.

98.    (Previously presented)  The method of claim 91, in which storing audit information relating to the access or other use of the digital object comprises updating previously stored audit information.

99.    (Previously presented)  The method of claim 95, in which determining that at least a predefined amount of audit information has been stored comprises determining that the database contains at least a predefined number of audit records.

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100.   (Previously presented)  The method of claim 96, in which determining that at least a predefined amount of audit information has been stored comprises determining that the database contains at least a predefined number of audit records.

101.   (Previously presented)  The method of claim 97, in which determining that at least a predefined amount of audit information has been stored comprises determining that at least a predefined number of audit records have been stored.

102.   (Previously presented)  The method of claim 98, in which determining that at least a predefined amount of audit information has been stored comprises determining that the previously stored audit information has been updated at least a predefined number of times.

103.   (Previously presented)  The method of claim 98, in which determining that at least a predefined amount of audit information has been stored comprises determining that the stored audit information exceeds a predefined size.

104.   (Previously presented)  The method of claim 91, in which the remote computer system comprises a clearinghouse.

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105. (Previously presented) The method of claim 91, in which the remote computer system comprises a computer system associated with a creator of the digital object.

106. (Previously presented) The method of claim 91, in which the remote computer system comprises a computer system associated with a distributor of the digital object.

107. (Previously presented) The method of claim 91, in which the digital object is encrypted, and in which granting the request to access or otherwise use the digital object comprises decrypting the digital object.

108. (Previously presented) The method of claim 91, in which the request to access or otherwise use the digital object comprises a request to open the digital object.

109. (Previously presented) The method of claim 91, in which the digital object comprises digitally recorded music, and in which the request to access or otherwise use the digital object comprises a request to play the music through one or more speakers.

110. (Previously presented) The method of claim 91, in which the digital object comprises digitally recorded video content, and in which the request to access or otherwise use the digital object comprises a request to play the video content.

111.    (Previously presented)  The method of claim 91, in which the digital object comprises textual content, and in which the request to access or otherwise use the digital object comprises a request to display at least part of the textual content on a computer screen.

112.    (Previously presented)  The method of claim 91, in which the digital object comprises textual content, and in which the request to access or otherwise use the digital object comprises a request to print at least part of the textual content.

113.    (Previously presented)  The method of claim 111, in which the audit information relating to the access or other use of the digital object comprises an indication of a quantity of textual content that was displayed.

114.    (Previously presented)  The method of claim 111, in which the audit information relating to the access or other use of the digital object comprises an indication of a length of time the textual content was displayed.

115.    (Previously presented)  The method of claim 91, further comprising:

deleting the stored audit information from the first computer system.

116.   (Previously presented)  The method of claim 91, further comprising:

receiving a communication from the remote computer system, the

communication being operable to cause at least some functionality at the first computer

system to be disabled.

117.   (Previously presented)  The method of claim 91, further comprising:

receiving a communication from the remote computer system, the

communication being operable to disable further use of the digital object at the first

computer system.

118.   (Previously presented)  The method of claim 116, in which the

communication from the remote computer system is sent in response to said remote

computer system receiving said at least part of the stored audit information.

119.   (Previously presented)  A computer program product embodied on a

computer readable medium, the computer program product including instructions that,

when executed by a computer system, are operable to cause the computer system to

perform actions comprising:

obtaining a request to access or otherwise use a digital object;

granting the request to access or otherwise use the digital object in accordance

with one or more rules associated with the digital object;

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storing audit information relating to the access or other use of the digital object;

and

determining that at least a predefined amount of audit information has been

stored, and sending at least part of the stored audit information to a remote computer

system.

120.    (Previously presented)  The computer program product of claim 119, in

which at least one of the one or more rules includes an indication of a number of times

that the digital object is allowed to be accessed or otherwise used.

121.    (Previously presented)  The computer program product of claim 120,

further including instructions operable to cause the computer system to perform actions

comprising:

in response to obtaining the request to access or otherwise use the digital object,

determining whether the request could be granted without exceeding the number of

times that the digital object is allowed to be accessed or otherwise used.

122.    (Previously presented)  The computer program product of claim 121, in

which determining whether the request could be granted without exceeding the number

of times that the digital object is allowed to be accessed or otherwise used includes:

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accessing previously stored audit information, the previously stored audit

information containing an indication of a number of times the digital object has been

accessed or otherwise used.


123.    (Previously presented)  The computer program product of claim 119,

further including instructions operable to cause the computer system to perform actions

comprising:

deleting the stored audit information.


124-157.  (Canceled)